

## **2017-2018 AHERA Yearly Notification Form**

Dear Parents, Teachers, Building Occupants, and Employee Organizations:

In the past, asbestos was used extensively in building materials because of its insulating, sound absorbing, and fire retarding capabilities. Virtually any building constructed before the late 1970's contained some asbestos. Intact and undisturbed asbestos materials generally do not pose a health risk. Asbestos materials, however, can become hazardous when, due to damage or deterioration over time, they release fibers into the air. If these fibers are inhaled, they can lead to health problems, such as cancer and asbestosis.

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) which requires schools to be inspected to identify any asbestos containing building materials also called (ACM). Suspected ACM was located sampled and rated according to condition and potential hazard.

Every three years, the Rockaway Borough School District has conducted a re-inspection to determine whether the condition of the known or assumed ACM has changed and to make recommendations on managing or removing the ACM. At the last re-inspection, all materials listed in the Management Plan as ACM or assumed ACM were inspected and appropriate response actions recommended.

The law further requires an asbestos management plan to be in place by July 1989 and the Rockaway Borough School District has developed a plan, as required, which has been continually updated. The plan has several ongoing requirements: Publish a notification on management plan availability and the status of asbestos activities; educate and train its employees about asbestos and how to deal with it; notify short-term or temporary workers on the locations of the ACM; post warning labels in routine maintenance areas where asbestos was previously identified or assumed; follow set plans and procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of ACM and survey the condition of these materials every six months to assure that they remain in a good and safe condition.

It is the intention of the Rockaway Borough School District to comply with all federal and state regulations controlling asbestos and to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure students and employees a healthy and safe environment in which to learn and work in. You are welcome to review a copy of the asbestos management plan in the administrative office or the school during regular business hours.